

Appl. No. 10/750,505
March 1, 2006
Reply to Office Action of September 1, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

What is claimed is:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of folding a disposable absorbent article, the article having an initial upper surface, an initial lower surface, a longitudinal centerline, a transverse centerline, opposing first longitudinal side edges, opposing first transverse end edges and an unfolded configuration, the method of folding comprising: forming one fold extending in a transverse direction by bringing a portion of the initial upper surface into a facing relationship with another portion of the initial upper surface, the one fold being spaced between opposing first transverse end edges, the resulting partially-folded article having an intermediate first surface, an intermediate second surface and opposing second transverse end edges, and thereafter forming a number, greater than one, of transversely extending folds in an accordion-like manner, the transversely extending accordion-like folds being spaced between opposing second transverse end edges and thereby forming a folded article and wherein the folded article has a ratio between a folded configuration and the unfolded configuration of no more than 0.14.

2. (Original) The method described in claim 1, wherein the number of accordion-like transverse extending folds is an even number.

3. (Original) The method described in claim 2, wherein the number of accordion-like transverse extending folds is 2.

4. (Original) The method described in claim 2, wherein the one fold extending in a transverse direction is located substantially adjacent the transverse centerline.

5. (Original) The method described in claim 4, wherein the accordion-like transversely extending folds are spaced substantially equally between opposing second transverse end edges.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~A disposable absorbent article folded according to~~ The method described in claim ~~15~~ and having a folded configuration, wherein the folded article has a ratio between the folded configuration and the unfolded configuration of no more than 0.08.

7. (Currently Amended) The method ~~disposable absorbent article~~ of claim 6, wherein the folded article is an infant diaper.

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8. (Original) The method described in claim 1, wherein the accordion-like transversely extending folds are spaced substantially equally between opposing second transverse end edges.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) The method disposable absorbent article of claim 19, wherein the folded article has a ratio between the folded configuration and the unfolded configuration of no less than 0.04.

11. (Currently Amended) The method disposable absorbent article of claim 10, wherein the folded article is an infant diaper.

12. (Currently Amended) A method of folding a disposable absorbent article, the article having an initial upper surface, an initial lower surface, a longitudinal centerline, a transverse centerline, opposing first longitudinal side edges, opposing first transverse end edges, side margins, opposing terminal side edges and an unfolded configuration, the method of folding comprising: forming at least one longitudinally extending fold in each side margin by folding each first longitudinal side edge inward toward the initial upper surface and thus bringing at least a portion of the initial upper surface into facing relationship with another portion of the initial upper surface, then forming one fold extending in a transverse direction by bringing a portion of the initial upper surface into a facing relationship with another portion of the initial upper surface, the one fold being spaced between opposing first transverse end edges, the resulting partially-folded article having an intermediate first surface, an intermediate second surface, opposing second longitudinal side edges and opposing second transverse end edges, and thereafter forming a number, greater than one, of transversely extending folds in an accordion-like manner, the transversely extending accordion-like folds being spaced between opposing second transverse end edges and thereby forming a folded article and wherein the folded article has a ratio between a folded configuration and the unfolded configuration of no more than 0.14.

13. (Original) The method described in claim 12, wherein the number of accordion-like transverse extending folds is an even number.

14. (Original) The method described in claim 13, wherein the number of accordion-like transverse extending folds is 2.

15. (Original) The method described in claim 13, wherein the one fold extending in a transverse direction is located substantially adjacent the transverse centerline.

16. (Original) The method described in claim 15, wherein the accordion-like transversely extending folds are spaced substantially equally between opposing second transverse end edges.

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17. (Currently Amended) ~~A disposable absorbent article folded according to the~~ method described in claim 16 ~~and having a folded configuration,~~ wherein the folded article has a ratio between the folded configuration and the unfolded configuration of no more than 0.08.

18. (Currently Amended) The method ~~disposable absorbent article~~ of claim 17, wherein the folded article is an infant diaper.

19. (Original) The method described in claim 12, wherein the accordion-like transversely extending folds are spaced substantially equally between opposing second transverse end edges.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) The method ~~disposable absorbent article~~ of claim ~~12~~20, wherein the folded article has a ratio between the folded configuration and the unfolded configuration of no less than 0.04.

22. (Currently Amended) The method ~~disposable absorbent article~~ of claim 21, wherein the folded article is an infant diaper.

23 – 34 (Cancelled)

35. (Currently Amended) A method of folding a disposable absorbent article, the article having an initial upper surface, an initial lower surface, a longitudinal centerline, a transverse centerline, opposing first longitudinal side edges, opposing first transverse end edges and an unfolded configuration, the method of folding comprising: forming a number, greater than two, of transversely extending folds in an accordion-like manner, the transversely extending folds being spaced between opposing first transverse end edges and thereby forming a folded article and wherein the folded article has a ratio between a folded configuration and the unfolded configuration of no more than 0.14.

36. (Original) The method described in claim 35, wherein the number of transversely extending accordion-like folds is an odd number.

37. (Original) The method described in claim 35, wherein the number of transversely extending accordion-like folds is an odd number greater than 4.

38. (Original) The method described in claim 37, wherein the number of transversely extending accordion-like folds is 5.

39. (Original) The method described in claim 38, wherein the transversely-extending accordion-like folds are spaced substantially equally between opposing first transverse end edges.

40. (Cancelled)

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41. (Currently Amended) The method ~~disposable absorbent article~~ of claim 3940, wherein the folded article is an infant diaper.

42. (Currently Amended) A method of folding a disposable absorbent article, the article having an initial upper surface, an initial lower surface, a longitudinal centerline, a transverse centerline, opposing first longitudinal side edges, opposing first transverse end edges, side margins, opposing terminal side edges and an unfolded configuration, the method of folding comprising: forming at least one longitudinally extending fold in each side margin by folding each first longitudinal side edge inward toward the initial upper surface and thus bringing at least a portion of the initial upper surface into facing relationship with another portion of the initial upper surface, then forming a number, greater than two, of transversely extending folds in an accordion-like manner, the transversely extending folds being spaced between opposing first transverse end edges and thereby forming a folded article and wherein the folded article has a ratio between a folded configuration and the unfolded configuration of no more than 0.14.

43. (Currently Amended) The method described in claim 42, wherein the number of transversely extending ~~acco(Original)rdion-like~~ folds is an odd number.

44. (Original) The method described in claim 42, wherein the number of transversely extending accordion-like folds is an odd number greater than 4.

45. (Original) The method described in claim 44, wherein the number of transversely extending accordion-like folds is 5.

46. (Original) The method described in claim 45, wherein the transversely-extending accordion-like folds are spaced substantially equally between opposing first transverse end edges.

47. (Cancelled)

48. (Original) The method ~~disposable absorbent article~~ of claim 4647, wherein the folded article is an infant diaper.